Bus-Styling Appraisement Research Using Extension Theory-Based on Artificial Neural Network

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Abstract: Automotive body styling appraisement is very important for body styling design. Because there is not tangible standard at the structure ascertaining of artificial neural network(ANN) and improvement of stability is needed for ANN inside black box characteristic, a bus-styling appraisement method using extension theory-based artificial neural network is presented. The key techniques of quasi-three-dimension bus-styling appraisement are investigated, including the idea and process of quasi-three-dimension bus-styling appraisement and the designing and training of extension theory-based artificial neural network model. Moreover, an expert software is developed to appraise bus styling. The effectiveness of the software is finally verified by a practical bus-styling task.

Keywords: Artificial neural network, bus-styling appraisement, extension theory.

1. INTRODUCTION

Traditional body styling appraisement is base on the explicit expert system that in according to the appraisement and score datum of all kinds vehicle category mine and conclude the experience of specific crowd or experts by the knowledge engineering method of expert system in artificial intelligence field to express the knowledge, experience and rules such as the form “if…then” [1]. However, for this traditional expert system there lies some limitations. At first human has a lot of knowledge than can not be expressed by formulas or expression “if .. then”, so this will induce some lost or aberrancy information. Secondly, so many rules in knowledge repository may induce the conflicts of system reasoning process. So some researchers try to introduce fuzzy rules to improve the appraisement method of body styling, but the effect is not good [2]. In addition, for the tradition expert system there is absent of self-study ability and system has no self-study mechanism, so revising repository and supplying knowledge to repository need artificially mode.

For artificial neural network (ANN) with the ability of storing and using experience knowledge and with the good characteristics of self-adaptive, self-study, parallel processing, non-linear processing, fault tolerance and reasoning, so ANN can be used to treat with the body styling appraisement related to causality and imprecise knowledge with conflicts and mistakes [3-12]. And for ANN, there are is tangible standard at the structure ascertaining of artificial neural network and improvement of stability is needed for ANN inside black box characteristic. Extension theory has the advantages to describe the things using basic-element Extension set [13-15], can express complicated datum and resolve the problem, so if integrating the advantages of ANN and extension theory maybe clearly and formally describe the whole process, and deal with the high coupling and non-linear problem.

BP network and RBF network are the popular artificial neural networks used. BP network has the characters such as complicated structure, large computing information, slow astringency and easily getting into local optimization point. But RBF network has the characters such as simple structure, randomly approaching any nonlinear mapping function, rapid astringency, using any kind of optimization arithmetic to search optimization value and avoiding to get into local optimization point. So in this paper the extension theory-based RBF artificial neural network is used to appraise the bus body styling.

2. THE BASIC MENTALITY OF QUASI-THREE-DIMENSION BUS-STYLING APPRAISEMENT

For appraising the automotive body styling if the practicality, 3-dimensions practicality and wire frame blueprint could be appraised may be ideal. And for the characters of artificial neural network, there is better recognition efficiency when ANN is used into intersecting feature recognition and incomplete feature recognition, so some experts have tried to introduce ANN into 3-dimention feature recognition field [16]. Comparing with 2-dimention problem, the difficulty of appraising 3-dimention bus-styling using ANN firstly is shown that it is deeply limited from computer hardware and software because of the information greatly increasing from graphic or image data. Secondly the difficulty is shown that it is very difficult to acquire a great deal of samples of 3-dimention bus-styling. So in this paper the technology of quasi-three-dimension bus-styling
appraisement based on which the features of some key 2-
dimension image is distilled by ANN is carried out.

Currently in 3-dimension image processing field
transforming 3-dimension image into 2-dimension image is
processed by nonlinear mapping peculiarity [17]. Bus body
is mainly made up of front wall assembly, rear wall
assembly and side wall assembly. These three parts are
relatively independent, and are almost orthogonal at
glometry. As result, the process that quasi-three-dimension
bus-styling is made up of these three part 2-dimension
graphics is fitted in fact. In this paper the input sample of
ANN is the plane wire frame view of bus-styling [18], and
the expert appraisement of sample styling is the ideal output
of ANN. Then the ANN is trained and the trained ANN of
quasi-three-dimension bus-styling is used to appraise and
forecast any type bus. Fig. (1) is the ANN structure of quasi-
three-dimension bus-styling appraisement, and Fig. (2) is the
structure of ANN model. Because the fringe of image which
is the relative stable information in image is effected
relatively less by outer conditions, pretreatment must be
done for the 2-dimention graphic of sample data and the
distilled main feature line that is made up of wire frame view
is appointed to the input data of ANN. In this paper
inhibitory interaction principle is used to distill the fringe
in real time [19].

3. THE EXTENSION THEORY-BASED RBF NEURAL
NETWORK

3.1. RBF Neural Network

RBF neural network is made up of input layer, hidden
layer and output layer. The transfer function need not any
transformation., and it can be expressed to ; Hidden layer is
made up of a group of radial basis function, and the center of
radial basis function and extended parameter are the
parameters related with every hidden layer node. Radial
basis function has many types such as Gaussian basis
function, multi-quadratic basis function, inverse multi-
quadratic basis function and so on. If the basis function is
the Gaussian basis function, then the transfer function of hidden
layer is shown as the expression (1).

\[ F_k(x) = \exp\left(-\frac{\|x - c_k\|^2}{2\sigma_k^2}\right) \]  

(1)

c_k is the center vector of k’th Gaussian function, and is the
weight between input layer and hidden layer. \(\sigma_k\) is the width
of k’th Gaussian function. \(\|x\|\) is the 2-norm and is expressed
as the Euclidean distance between \(x\) and \(c_k\).

The output of output is acquired from the weighted
summing of output data of hidden layer node, and the
transfer function is shown as expression (2).

\[ y_j = \sum_{k=1}^{C} w_{kj} F_k \]  

(2)

\(w_{kj}\) is the weight between k node of hidden layer and j node
of output layer, \(F_k(x)\) is the k node output of hidden layer, \(y_j\)
is the j node output of output layer.

The study rule used in RBF ANN is two-step study rule.
Firstly the node number and the center and width of hidden
layer are ascertained by K-means arithmetic. And secondly
the gradient descent method is used to train and ascertain the
link weight of hidden layer and output layer.

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3.2. The Extension Theory-Based RBF Neural Network

The extension theory-based RBF neural network is a feed-forward neural network and study arithmetic without tutor and has only one hidden layer. In this paper extension transformation is used to dynamically adjust the node number of hidden layer, that is the system adjust the parameters or structure of system in according to the some rules of sample data so as to express the inherent feature of outer input. During the training process of extension theory based RBF neural network, firstly using multi-dimension matter-element model describe every input sample, and then using combinative property of extension transformation through decreasing transformation, and extending and reducing transformation realize the normalization; secondly, using multi-dimension matter-element model describe the center vector and set distance parameter threshold, at the same time the first clustering center is acquired through the copying transformation of the first sample, and then the initiative transformation on center matter-element objective is carried into execution to induce the conducting transformation of corresponding feature value. Thirdly, after extend the distance definition of extension theory to n-dimension matter-element, the extending distance equation is acquired and according to the equation computer the minimum extension distance of all samples and existed centers, then adjust the center and weight value by using replacing transformation according to the different conditions until all clustering process is converged. Fourthly, the width is calculated and LMS arithmetic is used to adjust the weights of hidden layer and output layer. The flow chart is shown as Fig. (3).

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Fig. (3). Flow chart of extension clustering process.
4. THE DEVELOPMENT OF APPRAISEMENT SOFTWARE

For the actual users of the software, based on the developed ANN of bus-styling appraisement, the visualization developed tool to complete the bus-styling appraisement software. The main part of software is made up of proscenium visualization part and backstage ANN part. The backstage ANN program is built on the Matlab platform with ANN module and image process module, and because the Matlab platform has strong ability of numerical treatment and computing, the software and program has good characters with simpleness, easily transplanting and extending, high reliability and reducing the direct operation of hardware. The proscenium visualization part use the ActiveX technology to realize the linkage between backstage ANN part and sample database, and can dynamically revise the basic parameters of ANN and database so as to let users complete the work which load training samples, initialize weight, train neural network, load test samples and appraise test samples.

5. THE APPLICATION OF BUS-STYLING APPRAISEMENT SOFTWARE

When redesign the bus-styling, the corporation designers mainly redesign the grille styling and use the appraisement expert system based on extension theory-based RBF neural network to appraise amending redesign of the bus-styling. Figs. (4, 5) is the bus-styling before redesigning and after redesigning. Tables 1 and 2 show the scores of bus-styling. From the appraisement result, the score of newer styling is higher than older styling. In addition, the score of side wall assembly of newer styling is highest, and indirectly is affirmed that the styling is successful. Through analyzing and comparing, the corporation put the newer styling into production, and the market reaction is good.

CONCLUSION

In this paper the method of the extension theory-based RBF neural network is applied into the bus-styling appraisement. In addition, the intelligent expert system of bus-styling appraisement is developed and applied into the
bus-styling redesigning mission of corporation. The good market reaction is shown the feasibility of expert system based on the extension theory-based RBF neural network.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors confirm that this article content has no conflict of interest.

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